

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A system for purchase management based on an administrative standard of purchasing, said system comprising:

an administrative standard specifying unit for specifying, when a purchase request is to be made on a plurality of types of items, the administrative standard of the purchase request according to the expense items representing the category or use of said items defined for each item, by defining useable expense item codes based upon a correlation between a budget control unit for a user and said expense items;

an administrative standard specific dividing controller for performing control of dividing said purchase request per administrative standard when said administrative standard specifying unit specifies that the administrative standards of the respective items to which the purchase request was made differ;

an administration controller for receiving the purchase request divided per administrative standard and administratively controlling said purchase request;

a divided ordering controller for performing control of dividing and ordering said purchase request per item specific dealer when said administration controller allows the purchase request; and

an order totaling controller for totaling the order data ordered by the divided ordering controller according to the attribute of the expense item of said order;

a budget control unit master storing a customer's management unit identification, a budget control unit identification and an expense item code usable with a budget control unit showing the budget control unit identification, the customer's management unit identification, a budget control unit identification and the expense item code being made in connection with each other; and

a merchandise assortment master storing an item number showing an item, the expense item code showing an expense item showing one or more category or use of usable with the item and a merchandise unit identification showing a merchandise assortment to a user of a customer front, the item number, the expense item code and merchandise unit identification being made in connection with each other, wherein the administrative standard specifying unit has a function specifying the expense item made in connection with the item number by reference to the merchandise assortment master based on the item number assigned to the item when purchase request of a plural kinds of items is made, or specifying

the expense item made in connection with the budget management unit identification by reference to the budget management unit master based on the budget management unit identification showing the budget management unit to which a user belongs, and accumulating them in a shopping cart, a function specifying the administrative standard of each item to which the purchase request is made by reference to an approval path and a budget layer master based on the expense item code and the budget management unit identification, and a function determining whether or not an administrative standard of an item newly accumulated in the shopping cart agrees with an administrative standard of the item already accumulated in the shopping cart whenever an item is accumulated into the shopping cart.

Claim 2. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a useable expense item code displaying controller for selectively displaying, at the time of said purchase request, the useable expense item codes, and the expense item code set forth per category of said items or per price decision method of said items; and
a useable expense item specifying unit for inputting, among one or a plurality of useable expense item codes displayed selectively, the useable expense item code specified when the user makes the purchase request as the useable expense item of said item as said administrative standard specifying unit.

Claim 3. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said administrative standard specifying unit comprises a user specific administrative standard specifying function that specifies said administrative standard according to the budget control unit to which said user belongs and said expense item.

Claim 4. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said administrative standard specifying unit comprises a path specifying function that specifies as said administrative standard the budget control unit identification for identifying one or a plurality of budget controlling divisions, or the budget control unit identification for identifying a plurality of budget/approval controlling divisions.

Claim 5. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said divided ordering

controller comprises an item specific ordering controller for transmitting said order data per said item specific predetermined dealer.

Claim 6. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said user specifies a purchasable item group per user making the purchase request of items, and further comprising an item accessing controller for controlling the display of items per respective user in accordance with said purchase availability.

Claim 7. (Original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said item accessing controller comprises a function of determining the purchase availability per said user based on merchandise assortment related information for specifying the merchandise assortment set forth per said respective user or user group.

Claim 8. (Original) The system according to claim 7, wherein said item accessing controller comprises a function of determining the purchase availability per said user based on the predetermined purchasable expense item per said respective user or user group.

Claim 9. (Previously presented - Withdrawn) A system for purchase management based on the administrative standard of purchasing, said system comprising:

- an administrative standard specifying unit for specifying, when a purchase request is to be made on a plurality of types of items, the administrative standard of the purchase request according to the expense items representing the category or use of said items defined for each item each time an item is selected;

- an administration controller for receiving a collective purchase of a plurality of types of items when the administrative standards specified by this administrative standard specifying unit are identical, and administratively controlling said purchase request;

- a divided ordering controller for performing control of dividing and ordering said purchase request per item specific dealer when said administration controller allows the purchase request; and

- an order totaling controller for totaling the order data ordered by the divided ordering controller according to the attribute of the expense item of said order.

Claim 10. (Previously presented - Withdrawn) The system according to claim 9, wherein said administrative standard specifying unit comprises a path specifying function for specifying as said administrative standard the budget control unit identification for specifying one or a plurality of budget controlling divisions, or the budget control unit identification for specifying a plurality of budget/approval controlling divisions.

Claim 11. (Previously presented - Withdrawn) The system according to claim 10, wherein said administration controller comprises:

- a path specific execution function for executing budget processing or budget/approval processing with said budget control unit identification to said plurality of types of items, collectively, when the hierarchies of the budget control unit identification to be specified by said path specifying function are identical; and

- a path specific dividing dependent control function for inducing said user to divide the purchase request for purchase requests of items in which the hierarchies of said budget control unit identification differ.

Claim 12. (Previously presented - Withdrawn) The system according to claim 10, further comprising an administrative standard specific purchase request data storing unit for storing a combination of items of a purchase request belong to a single administrative standard pursuant to said administration controller as a combination unit for subsequent purchase request.

Claim 13. (Previously presented - Withdrawn) A method of purchase management based on the administrative standard using the purchase management system, said purchase management system comprising:

- a merchandise master storing data on items to be the subject of purchase;

- a purchase management master storing data on purchase managers of purchasing to which a user belongs;

- an expense item related master storing expense item codes defined in relation to said item or administrative standard and selectable upon said purchase request; and

- a server for controlling data transmission with said user by employing each of said masters;

wherein said purchase management method comprises:

- specifying the administrative standard of said purchase request in accordance with the expense item representing the category or use of said item defined in said purchase managers, each time an item is selected, when a purchase request for a plurality of types of items is made;

- dividing said purchase request per administrative standard when it is determined that the administrative standards of the respective items to which said purchase request was made are different;

- receiving the purchase request divided per said administrative standard and administratively controlling said purchase request;

- performing control of dividing and ordering said purchase request per item specific dealer when the purchase request is allowed; and

- totaling the divided and ordered order data according to the attributes of the expense item of said order.

Claim 14. (Previously presented - Withdrawn) The method according to claim 13, wherein specifying said administrative standard comprises:

- specifying, each time a user makes a purchase request of items, an item group purchasable by said user; and

- performing the control of displaying items per user according to the availability of said purchase.

Claim 15. (Previously presented - Withdrawn) A method of purchase management based on an administrative standard using a purchase management system, said purchase management system comprising:

- a merchandise master storing data on items to be the subject of purchase;

- a purchase management master storing data on purchase managers of purchasing to which a user belongs;

- an expense item related master storing expense item codes defined in relation to said item or administrative standard and selectable upon said purchase request; and

- a server for controlling data transmission with said user by employing each of said masters;

wherein said purchase management method comprises:

specifying the administrative standard of said purchase request in accordance with the expense item representing the category or use of said item defined in said purchase managers, each time an item is selected, when a purchase request for a plurality of types of items is made;

receiving a collective purchase request of a plurality of types of items when the specified management standards are identical and administratively controlling said purchase request;

performing control of dividing and ordering said purchase request per item specific dealer when the purchase request is allowed; and

totaling the divided and ordered order data according to the attributes of the expense item of said order.

Claim 16. (Previously presented - Withdrawn) The method according to claim 15, wherein specifying said administrative standard comprises specifying, each time a user makes a purchase request of items, an item group purchasable by said user and performs the control of displaying items per user according to the availability of said purchase.

Claim 17. (Previously presented - Withdrawn) A computer program product stored in a recording medium and for purchase management based on an administrative standard using a purchase management system, said purchase management system comprising:

a merchandise master storing data on items to be the subject of purchase;

a purchase management master storing data on purchase managers of purchasing to which a user belongs;

an expense item related master storing expense item codes defined in relation to said item or administrative standard and selectable upon said purchase request; and

a server for controlling data transmission with said user by employing each of said masters;

wherein said program causes said server:

to specify the administrative standard of said purchase request in accordance with the expense item representing the category or use of said item defined in said purchase managers, each time an item is selected, when a purchase request for a

plurality of types of items is made;

to divide said purchase request per administrative standard when it is determined that the administrative standards of the respective items to which said purchase request was made are different;

to receive the purchase request divided per said administrative standard and administratively controlling said purchase request;

to perform control of dividing and ordering said purchase request per item specific dealer when the purchase request is allowed; and

to total the divided and ordered order data according to the attributes of the expense item of said order.

Claim 18. (Previously presented - Withdrawn) A purchase management support system, comprising:

a server connected to a plurality of purchase management systems;

a purchase management master storing users and purchase managers per management unit operating said purchase management system; and

a merchandise master storing item data relating to items such as goods and services,; wherein said purchase management master stores a list of items ordered by said management unit of each of said purchase managements systems, an expense item code defined per said item or item group, and an expense item code defined per said purchase manager,

wherein said server comprises:

an item data provider for providing, when accessed from a terminal of a user belonging to a purchase manager in a management unit of said respective purchase management systems, item data to said user terminal upon referring to said purchase management master and merchandise master according to the operation of said user;

an administrative standard specifying unit for specifying the administrative standard of the purchase request in said management unit based on the expense item code defined in said item each time said user selects an item among the provided item data; and

a purchase data transmitter for transmitting the administrative standard code used for identifying the administrative standard specified by this administrative

standard specifying unit, together with item data selected by said user, to said purchase management system.

Claim 19. (Original - Withdrawn) The system according to claim 18, wherein said administrative standard code is a budget limit code for identifying the budget control unit to which said user belongs, and the expense item of the item selected by said user.

Claim 20. (Original - Withdrawn) The system according to claim 18, wherein said administrative standard is an approval path code for identifying the management unit to which said user belongs.

Claim 21. (Original - Withdrawn) A system according to claim 18, wherein said purchase management stores an expense item code per price determining method defined in the respective items of the merchandise master of other sites managed by other servers connected via said merchandise master or network.

Claim 22. (Previously presented - Withdrawn) A distribution support system for managing a purchase by customers based on an administrative standard of said customers, and supporting the distribution of items to be purchased by said customers, comprising:

- a database for storing the respective masters; and

- a server connected to a prescribed terminal via a network, for controlling the data transmission/reception with said terminal, and for extracting or registering data of said respective masters according to the request,

- wherein said database comprises:

- a merchandise assortment unit master to which a customer's management unit or purchase unit as the user and a dealer for providing items such as goods or services to users of said customer are defined as a key, and to which a merchandise assortment unit for identifying the merchandise assortment of items provided by said dealer to said purchase units is defined;

- a merchandise assortment master to which items belonging to the merchandise assortment identified by the merchandise unit of this merchandise assortment unit master, attribute information on suppliers and deliverers relating to the distribution of

items, and an expense item code in said customers of said items are defined as merchandise assortment data:

- a budget control unit master to which a budget control unit on the purchase management to which said user belongs, and an expense item code usable in said budget control unit are defined;

- an approval path and budget layer master for specifying the purchase administrative standard of said customer based on said budget control unit and expense item code;

- a merchandise master to which attribute information on the item itself such as the specification and supplier of the item per item number of said item is defined; and

- a commerce channel management master to which a middle distributor such as a wholesaler according to the relationship of said dealer, supplier and deliverer is defined,

wherein said server comprises:

- a merchandise assortment unit group specifying unit for specifying a merchandise assortment unit group per said purchase unit by referring to said merchandise assortment unit master;

- a dealer specifying unit for specifying an exclusive dealer among the dealer group dealing with said customers based on said merchandise assortment data per specified plurality of merchandise assortment units and the item number selected by the user for ordering;

- a merchandise assortment data extractor for extracting an exclusive merchandise assortment data from said merchandise assortment master per item number among the respective merchandise assortment data of said specified merchandise assortment unit groups;

- a purchase manager for specifying the administrative standard of the purchase of the respective items and performing the control of purchase processing with said purchase administrative standard based on the expense item code with said extracted merchandise assortment data or the expense item code defined in said user's budget control unit;

- a supplier/deliverer specifying unit for specifying the supplier and deliverer of said item based on the merchandise assortment data extracted by said merchandise

assortment data extractor;

a deal supporting unit for specifying the commerce channel from said supplier to said dealer and supporting the purchase/sales processing in said commerce channel by referring to said commerce channel management master according to the combination of said supplier, deliverer and dealer; and

a delivery controller for controlling the delivery of said item from said deliverer to said user under the name of said dealer.

Claim 23. (Previously presented) A system for purchase management based on an administrative standard of purchasing, said system comprising:

an administrative standard specifier that specifies administrative standards for a purchase request regarding a plurality of types of items by defining useable expense item codes that correlate between a budget controller for a user and expense items;

an administrative standard specification divider that divides the purchase request based upon said administrative standards when said administrative standard specifier specifies different administrative standards for the purchase request;

an administration controller that receives the divided purchase request and that controls the administration of the divided purchase request;

an order divider that divides and orders said purchase request based upon specified dealers when the administration controller allows the purchase request; and

an order totaler that totals the order from the order divider according to expense items in said order.